

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 00978 261431Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 261353Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9491

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 978

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (MATHIAS, CHARLES MCC., JR.)

SUBJ: CODEL MATHIAS: DESIRE VISIT US TECHNICIANS IN SINAI

1. DURING RECENT VISIT STAFFDEL ROSSITER INDICATED SENATOR MATHIAS PLANS TO VISIT EGYPT, ISRAEL AND OTHER NEAR EAST STATES IN FEBRUARY. VISIT WILL PROBABLY BEGIN IN EGYPT AROUND FEB 20. SENATOR HOPES BE IN EGYPT ABOUT THREE FULL DAYS. AMBASSADOR INDICATED WE WOULD WELCOME SUCH VISIT.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH VISIT TO EGYPT, STAFFDEL STATED THE SENATOR WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE AMERICAN TECHNICIANS IN SINAI. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT TEAM WILL NOT BE DEPLOYED UNTIL FEB 22, ON WHICH DATE IMPLEMENTATION OF SINAI II WILL BE COMPLETED. SINCE THE SENATOR WILL BE IN ISRAEL IMMEDIATELY AFTER EGYPT, IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO ARRANGE VISIT FROM THERE. STAFFDEL THOUGHT THIS COULD BE DONE.

3. COMMENT: WE EXPECT PROPOSED VISIT OF SENATOR MATHIAS WILL BE FIRST OF MANY SUCH CODEL VISITS TO OUR TECHNICIANS IN SINAI. AS SEEN FROM HERE, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE SOME ELEMENT OF SYMMETRY IN CODELS VISITING THE TECHNICIANS FROM EGYPT AND ISRAEL. RECOGNIZE IT MAY BE MORE
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CONVENIENT TO VISIT FROM ISRAEL, WHERE

HELICOPTER SERVICE CAN PRESUMABLY BE PROVIDED. HOWEVER,
IF MOST CODELS VISIT US BASE CAMP FROM THERE,
EGYPTIANS WILL COME TO REGARD US STATIONS AS
DIRECTED PRIMARILY AT THEM, WHICH SOME ALREADY
SUSPECT. AFTER FEB 22, VISITS TO CAMP CAN ALSO BE
ARRANGED FROM HERE USING LOCALLY HIRED VEHICLES.
WE WILL HAVE TO WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS WITH UNEF
TO ESCORT CODELS IN BUFFER ZONE. THIS CAN BE DONE
THROUGH UNEF HEADQUARTERS IN ISMAILIA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO00978
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760029-0548
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760122/aaaaatjv.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 OCT 2004 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL MATHIAS: DESIRE VISIT US TECHNICIANS IN SINAI
TAGS: OREP, US, EG, (MATHIAS, CHARLES MCC JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006